

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

403497

IN REPLY REFER TO:

EE:HCB

August 13, 1954

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Captain W. L. Turney  
Commanding Officer  
U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory  
U. S. Shipyard, Hunters Point  
San Francisco 24, California

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Captain Turney:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the cooperation of your laboratory in making available personnel and equipment to perform the highly important follow-up medical examinations on the Marshallese inhabitants who were exposed to radiation during the recent test series in the Pacific. The Atomic Energy Commission considers this mission to be of utmost importance, not only to the health and welfare of the Marshallese inhabitants for whom we now have a particular responsibility but to the future availability and use of the Marshall Islands area for the conduct of tests of nuclear and thermonuclear devices.

We feel we are most fortunate in having Dr. V. P. Bond as the leader of the first of successive teams to conduct follow-up examinations, and we are grateful to the Navy for making his services available.

In organizing this program for follow-up medical examinations the Atomic Energy Commission has been careful to maintain timely liaison with the Chief of Naval Operations, the Department of State, and the Department of the Interior. Arrangements at this end are now virtually completed, and we understand from the office of the Chief of Naval Operations that appropriate priorities and support for this mission have been arranged. We took the precaution of making arrangements with the Chief of Naval Operations in order to assure the smooth, orderly, and uninterrupted transport of the teams to and from the Marshall Islands area. It would be most unfortunate, and potentially embarrassing to the United States, and possibly

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Captain W. L. Turney

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detrimental to the welfare of the Marshallese patients, if the team were to experience unnecessary delays or be separated as a unit.

We have the utmost confidence in the judgment and professional skill of Dr. Bond and his team. We wish them every success.

Sincerely yours,

*John C. Bugher*  
John C. Bugher, M.D.  
Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine

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